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➤BOOK ❖ NOTICES.◀

TWENTY-ONE YEARS' WORK IN PALESTINE.*

Every Bible-student has heard something of the Palestine Exploration Fund. Its works are constantly cited. Organized in 1865, for the purpose of conducting "systematic and scientific research in all branches of inquiry connected with the Holy Land," with special view to the illustration of the Bible, its work has gone on regularly and continuously during this period, and the results accomplished are of a number and character which only the professional student can appreciate. This work is intended as a popular resumé of the work of the society, and as such certainly fills an important place. After indicating the work originally proposed and the principles in accordance with which it was to be conducted, the writer gives us a brief history of the management, the amount of money received and expended. There follow brief yet interesting accounts of the "first expedition," "the excavations at Jerusalem," "the desert of the exodus," the surveys of Western and Eastern Palestine, the geological survey, and the monuments of the country. A chapter is given to the memory of those of the society's officers who died in the work. In the final chapter an indication is given of the work which lies immediately before the society, and for which it asks additional funds. That part of the work in which least has been done is in relation to the manners and customs of the people. In this department the society promises publications at an early date. Whatever may be the basis for the severe criticism of the society's work by Professor Socin a year or so ago, sufficient has been accomplished to entitle the society and its officers to the everlasting gratitude of all students of the Sacred Word.

THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE.†

The preceding volumes of this work—truly a great one in many senses—have already been noticed. Critical students must not lose sight of the fact that there is a depth of meaning in the biblical narratives which the cold analytical method of study does not reach. If the word "meaning" is here too definite, we may perhaps substitute "suggestion." To a mind like that of Dr. Parker the simple narratives of Scripture and its peculiar phraseology are wonderfully suggestive. A certain expression starts him on a line of thought which is rich and deeply spiritual. His admonitions are pointed; his exhortations are effective; his teachings are most wholesome; but whether such a method of treating the Bible is, everything considered, the best, may, perhaps, be questioned.

*TWENTY-ONE YEARS' WORK IN THE HOLY LAND (A RECORD AND A SUMMARY): June 22, 1865—June 22, 1886. London: *Richard Bentley & Son*. 1886. 8vo, pp. 232. Price, \$1.40.

†THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE: Discourses upon Holy Scripture, by Joseph Parker, D. D. Vol. V, Joshua—Judges V. New York: *Funk & Wagnalls*, 18 and 20 Astor Place. 1887. 8vo, pp. 360. Price, \$1.50.